

# NEWS RELEASE

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## BHP BILLITON METALLURGICAL COAL PRICE NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

BHP Billiton today announced that 2008 terms for a significant portion of annually-priced metallurgical coking coal contracts, relating to the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) operations in Queensland, have been concluded following settlements initially outside Japan and more recently with key Japanese customers.

Based on contract settlements to date, FOB(\$US) prices for Peak Downs and other similar BMA metallurgical coking coal products are expected to increase within the range of 206-240 per cent over 2007 levels.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: [www.bhpbilliton.com](http://www.bhpbilliton.com)

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